

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An apparatus comprises a buffer comprising a plurality of entries, a plurality of  
5 age vectors, and a control circuit coupled to the buffer. Each of the age vectors  
corresponds to one or more of the entries. Responsive to data being provided to the  
buffer to be written to at least a first entry, the control circuit is configured to generate a  
first age vector. The first age vector corresponds to the first entry, and is indicative of  
which of the plurality of entries contain data that is older than the data being written to  
10 the first entry. The control circuit is configured to select an entry for reading responsive  
to the plurality of age vectors. The selected entry has an attribute used to select the  
selected entry, and other entries indicated as storing older data in the age vector  
corresponding to the selected entry do not have the attribute.